INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Document 005-E
24 February 2009
Original: English

7TH WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT INDICATORS MEETING, CAIRO, EGYPT, 3-5 MARCH 2009

SOURCE: National Computer Board, Mauritius

TITLE: The Cyber Island: Using ICT Indices for Policymaking

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Mauritius
The Cyber Island : Using ICT Indices for Policymaking

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National ICT Strategic Plan 2007-2011 (NICTSP)

Vision

Develop ICT as the 5th pillar of the economy and an important engine of economic growth for wealth and job creation

Goals

- Position Mauritius as a Strategic ICT Regional Hub
- Transform Mauritius into an Information Society
- Develop Mauritius as an attractive investment location for ICT and a competitive outsourcing destination for ICT and BPO / ITES

NICTSP Targets

National Computer Board

ICT AS THE "FIFTH PILLAR"

INFORMATION ECONOMY

Export of ICT Services	MUR **22.8 Billion**
GDP Percentage	**6.9%**
Employment to Mauritians	**~16,000** to be raised **~20,000**
Total employed professionals	**~29,000**
Absorption % (Tertiary)	at least **90%**

INFORMATION SOCIETY

"Technology Temper"	**>= 50%** uptake of eServices
PC Penetration (households)	**20,000 increase**
PC Pen. (Primary schools)	**12,000 increase**
PIAPs	**>=150**
Acceptance of ICT as a Career Choice	**>= 100% increase**
Broadband Penetration	**250,000 increase**

Mauritius: The Right ICT Destination

National Computer Board

- *Appropriate legal framework (Electronic Transaction Act, Data Protection Act, Cybercrime and Computer Misuse Act)*
- *Skilled and bilingual manpower (English/French)*
- *State-of-the-art telecommunications (SAFE, liberalisation of telecoms, competitive tariffs, EASSy PROJECT)*
- *Quality infrastructure - ICT Parks (Ebene Cyber Towers 1 & 2, Informatics Park, ICT Incubator Centre)*

Mauritius: The Right ICT Destination

- Business friendly and conducive market environment
- Favourable time zone (GMT+4)
- Strategic Hub for African and French speaking markets (Member of SADC, COMESA, IOR, IOC)

ICT Indicators

- National ICT Strategic Plan 2007-2011 recommended adoption of indicators based on internationally recognised indices and setting up of a National ICT Evaluation and Research Network (NICTERN) for monitoring indicators at national level.
- ICT Indicators Task Force : Chaired by National Computer Board (NCB) developed definitions for indicators for the ICT sector and streamlined the data collection process

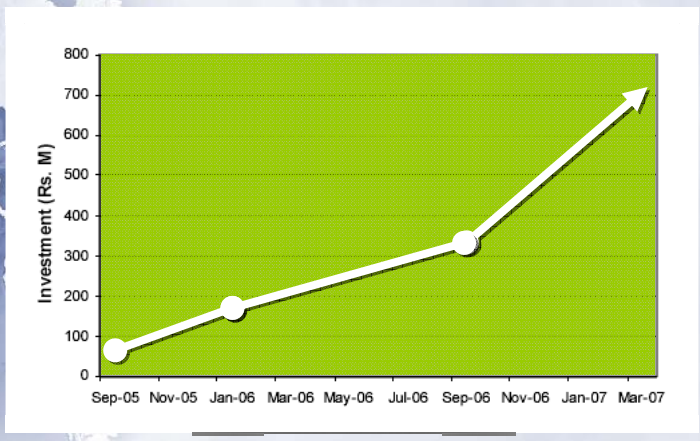
ICT Indicators

- ICT indicators established based on core indicators from WSIS and ITU and from international indices
- ICT Indicators grouped in 7 categories:-
  - Infrastructure Readiness (31 Indicators)
  - ICT Market Revenue (19 Indicators)
  - ICT Usage in Businesses (34 indicators)
  - ICT Penetration in households (8 indicators)
  - E-Government (9 indicators)
  - ICT Manpower (16 indicators)
  - ICT in Education (30 indicators)
- Database of ICT Indicators being set up.

International Indices: Mauritius

- AT Kearney Global Services Location Index 2007, Mauritius is listed amongst the world's top 25.
- Doing Business : World Bank Survey : Mauritius ranks 1st in the African region and 25th out of 181 countries in 2008
- Digital Opportunity Index 2007: Mauritius ranks 58th in the world in and is the highest-ranking African economy
- UN E-Government Readiness Index : Mauritius 63rd in the world and 3rd in Africa.

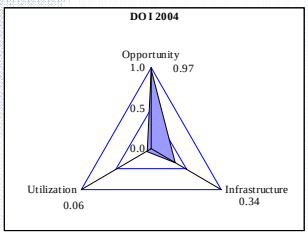
Growth of Investment since Sept 2005

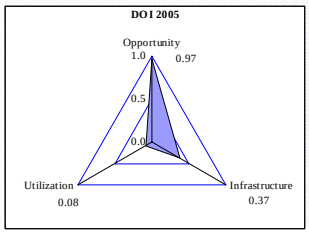


Source: Board of Investment, Mauritius

Improving ICT Access

- Extent of digital divide
- 2007: 1st in Africa, 58th in the world
- Policies introduced to improve utilisation and access to infrastructure





Improving ICT Access

- 2002: Internet Services and international telecommunications liberalised
- 2005: Free Broadband Internet Access in secondary schools and setting up of National Internet Exchange Point
- 2006 : Setting up of Public Internet Access Points in Post Offices across the island
- 2007 : Reduction of Internet access and IPLC international connectivity tariffs
- 2008 : Setting up of Universal Service Fund, Introduction of Digital E-inclusion Project (PCs for low income households and NGOs), Community Empowerment Programme: setting up of computer clubs in youth and women centres across the island.

Improving ICT Utilisation

- 2006 : Universal ICT Education Programme : Train 400,000 people over 4 years in ICT Literacy
- 2006 : Interactive E-government services available
- 2009 : Citizens can access e-government via mobile channels and setting up of community web portals across the island.
- 2010 onwards : National ID Card based on smart card technology and PKI : online transactions and payments

National Computer Board

Thank you

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